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WHEN EXPOSED TO POISON IVY

If you accidentally step into a patch of the three-leaved poison ivy, remember there is hope in kitchen soap, says _____ (name), _____ (title, botanist or plant specialist) at _____ (institution).

After you've been exposed to poison ivy, he says, the thing to do is to get rid of the poison while it is still only on the surface of your skin. Use plenty of ordinary kitchen or laundry soap and hot water. Work up a heavy lather on the parts of the skin that have been exposed to the poison ivy and then rinse off the soap completely. Wash and rinse at least three or four times.

Hard scrubbing with a stiff brush may rub in the poison and cause infection.

Poison ivy is easy to recognize. The leaves are divided into three leaflets and the berries or fruit are whitish or cream colored, something like mistletoe berries. Not all poison-ivy plants have berries, but they all have leaflets in threes.

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